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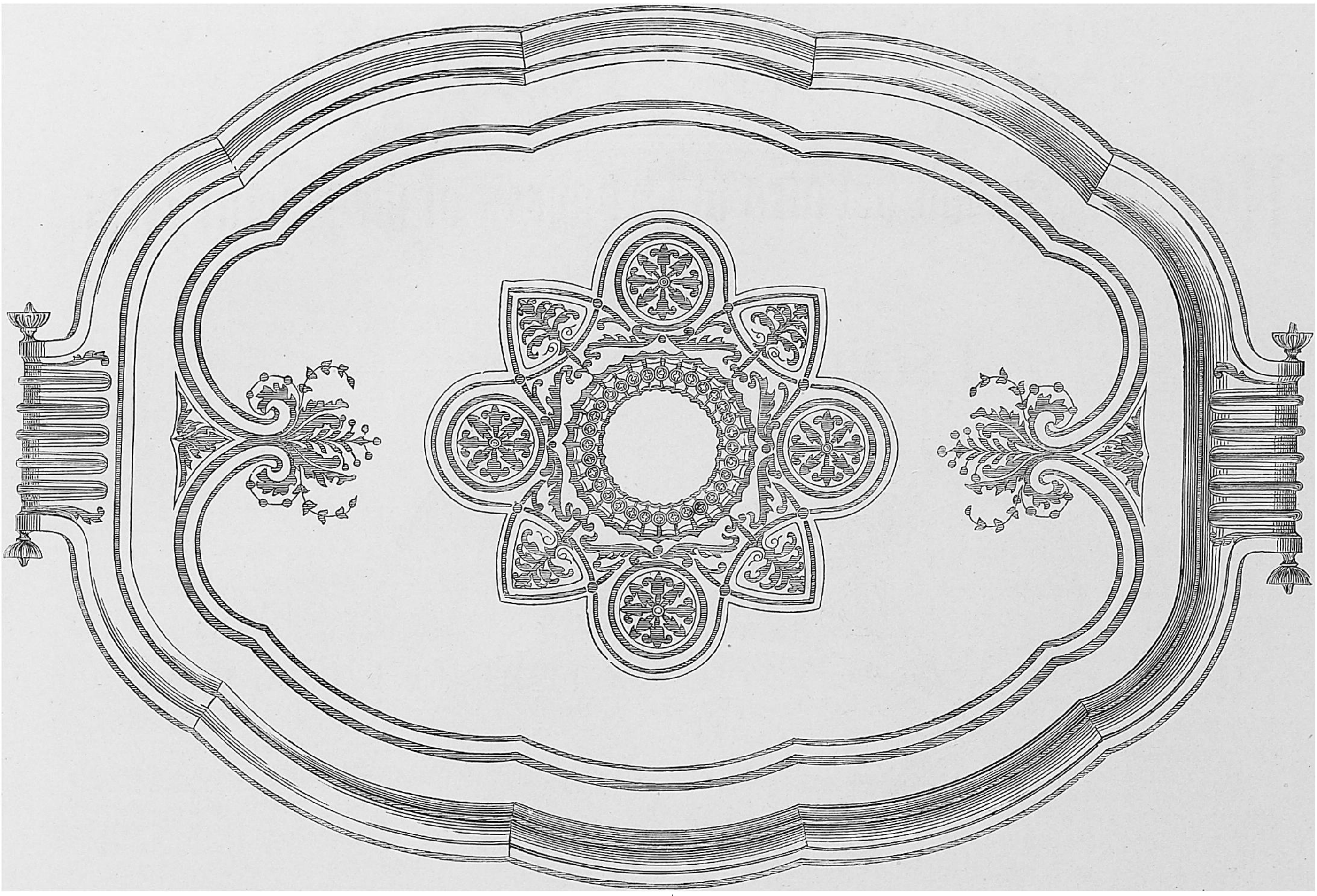

No. 14.

VARIOUS.

A PERSPECTOGRAPH.

Mr. A. R. East, of Selma, Indiana, has patented an improved perspectograph, the object of which is to provide a simple and efficient mechanical apparatus by which to take the points or boundary-lines of all visible stationary objects accurately, and transfer them to paper on a sketch-board. According to *Iron,* this is done by two perpendicular bars, which extend from a bed-piece. On one bar are two sleeves, the lower of which carries a horizontal arm, the further extremity of which is slotted to receive the second perpendicular bar. On the horizontal arm slides a vertical rod, through which, at its upper end, passes another horizontal arm, which is attached to the upper sliding-piece on the bar first mentioned. Pivoted to either sliding-piece at will is a converging arm, which carries one eye-plate on a vertical staff. On all these portions, except the swinging arm, are marked scales. A single example of the mode of using the instrument will suffice to show its application. To operate by the use of the perpendicular scale and the horizontal scale on the upper sliding-piece, or, in other words, to take field notes by latitude and departure, using the sliding scales, slide the horizontal scale to the top of the meridian, and move the scale of latitude (the vertical rod on the lower horizontal arm) to the extreme right. An object in the foreground to the extreme left, and nearest to the observer, is selected and regarded through the eye-plate. The scale of latitude on the base is next moved till it comes in direct line with the eye and the said point. Then the horizontal scale at the top of the meridian is loosened and moved down till it also comes in direct line from the eye to the object, and the angle of incidence, or the latitude and departure of the point of the object is found at the intersection of the two scales. A horizontal scale on the plat-board is moved until it cuts the degree of latitude of the point in the object, and a dotter is fixed to the angle of longitude or departure. By a gentle pressure on the dotter the point is carried on the paper. In this way the operation is carried on from object to object, and from point to point, until the entire field is gone over.

INCOMBUSTIBLE WOOD FOR SHIP AND HOUSE BUILDING.

Several attempts have been made at different times to render timber uninflammable. A new method has recently been tested at Plymouth. Some interesting experiments were made at the Dockyard, Devonport, before Admiral Sir W. King, K. C. B., and other officials, by order of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, on Thursday, February 26th, and again on Thursday, March 12th. In one, a large heap of the prepared timber, about 2 ft. high, and 7 ft. or 8 ft. in circumference, placed on large iron sheets, was saturated with paraffine and set on fire: as soon as the paraffine was consumed the fire went out; the timber was then examined, and found to be scarcely injured; whereas a similar heap of ordinary wood, treated in the same manner, was completely reduced to ashes.

We understand that the inventor is a clergyman, — the Rev. Dr. Jones, principal of Harewood College, Tavistock, — and that the process is inexpensive. *The Builder.*